Anti-Terrorist Bills Weighed

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Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman James O. Eastland of Mississippi, disturbed by "a wave of guerrilla warfare" against the nation's police, opened hearings yesterday on legislation to combat "an ominous pattern" of terrorism.

The four bills, three sponsored by Democrats and one by a Republican, include among them these features:

• Eastland's bill, according to one of his aides, seeks to restore to the law books those provisions of the Smith Act that were overturned by appellate courts in the 1950s. The language has been amended, but the aide said the goal is the same.

"Without regard to the immediate provable effect of such action," Eastland's bill reads, "whoever knowingly or willfully advocates, abets, advises or teaches the duty, necessity, desirability or propriety of overthrowing or destroying the Government of the United States or the government of any state . . ." would be guilty under the law.

• A bill by Sen. Thomas J. Dodd (D-Conn.) would outlaw any behavior that "advocates the desirability or necessity of urban terrorism." It would prohibit "being an active member of any association organization, society or group" that advocates urban terrorism through what it "prints, publishes, edits, issues, circulates, sells, distributes or publicly displays."

Conviction could result from "proof that an organization, society, assembly or group is national or regional, cohesive, organized into underground cells . . . conducts some of its activities in secret; publishes or circulates propaganda which advocates revolution . . ."

• The bill introduced by Sen. Richard Schweiker (R-Pa.) would make the killing of a policeman, fireman or judge a federal offense if it can be proved that the killing occurred because the victim was a "symbol of the establishment."

• The bill introduced by Sen. Harrison Williams (D-N.J.) would have the effect of the "Lindbergh law" in that it would automatically make it possible for the FBI to enter an investigation after 24 hours if the suspect in the killing of a policeman or a fireman has not been apprehended.

All of the witnesses yesterday appeared to express their approval of the bills. They were Charles A. O'Brien, chief deputy attorney general of California and Democratic candidate for attorney general of his state; Maryland Attorney General Francis B. Burch, a Demcorat seeking re-election; and four policemen, two each from the cities of Omaha, Neb., and New Orleans, La.

Each recounted the details of acts of terrorism that have occurred in their areas. They blamed either the Black Panthers or the Weatherman faction of the Students for a Democratic Society for much of it.

O'Brien brought along several pieces of the paraphernalia of warfare that he said were confiscated from radicals in California. He also said that murders of policemen in his state have increased 100 per cent this year and assaults against policemen are up 350 per cent.

Burch, although he applauded the attempts of the Senators to enact the laws, doubted that Eastland's bill would survive the appellate process. But he said it was worth a try.

The language of Eastlands bill concerning the overthrow of the government is the language the courts rejected in the Smith Act on the grounds that exhortation was no proof that a crime was committed as a direct result.

So Eastland added the words, "without regard to the immediate provable effect." Hearings resume today.

Associated Press

Sens. Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.), left, and James O. Eastland (D-Miss.) examine weapons brought to a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing. Behind them are James Lucier and Al Tarabochia, committee aides. Charles A. O'Brien, deputy attorney general of California, said the weapons were taken from terrorist organizations in his state.